5

10

15

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. In a wireless transmitter, a physical layer processor comprising:
 - a source signal including data;

an FEC (Forward Error Correction) coder to receive the source signal and produce an enhanced source signal including data coded with error correction information;

a demultiplexer coupled to receive the enhanced source signal from the FEC coder;

a plurality of modem processors, each of which is coupled to a unique output of the demultiplexer to process respective portions of the enhanced source signal in independent channels;

a summer coupled to receive outputs of the modem processors to produce an aggregate signal, the aggregate signal being a summation of the enhanced signal processed in independent channels; and

- a transmitter to transmit the aggregate signal over a carrier frequency.
- 2. The wireless transmitter of claim 1, wherein the aggregate signal comprises a spread-spectrum signal.
- The wireless transmitter of claim 2, wherein the spread-spectrum signal
 comprises a direct-sequence spread-spectrum signal.
 - 4. The wireless transmitter of claim 1 provided in a base station of a wireless communication system.

- 5. The wireless transmitter of claim 1 provided in a subscriber station of a wireless communication system.
- 6. The wireless transmitter of claim 1, wherein the FEC coder operates according to an iterative systematic nested code.
- The wireless transmitter of claim 1, wherein the FEC coder operates according to a turbo product code.
 - 8. The wireless transmitter of claim 1, wherein the FEC coder according to a convolutional turbo code.
- The wireless transmitter of claim 1, wherein the plurality of modem processors
 are configured in a pooling arrangement.
 - 10. The wireless transmitter of claim 1, comprising a second FEC coder, the first and second FEC coders configured in a pooling arrangement.
 - 11. In a wireless receiver, a physical layer processor comprising:
- a receiver that receives a wireless signal from a transmitter, the wireless signal being formed at the transmitter by a summation of portions of a coded signal that were processed in independent channels but were wirelessly transmitted as a single aggregate signal;
 - a plurality of demodulators coupled to receive an output of the receiver; and
- a multiplexer coupled to direct an output of the demodulators to an FEC (Forward Error Correction) decoder to recover a single unitary information signal.

- 12. The wireless receiver of claim 11 provided in a base station of a wireless communication system.
- 13. The wireless receiver of claim 11 provided in a subscriber station of a wireless communication system.
- 5 14. The wireless receiver of claim 11, wherein the FEC decoder operates according to an iterative systematic nested code.
 - 15. The wireless receiver of claim 11, wherein the FEC decoder operates according to a turbo product code.
- 16. The wireless receiver of claim 11, wherein the FEC coder according to a convolutional turbo code.
 - 17. The wireless receiver of claim 11, wherein the plurality of demodulators are configured in a pooling arrangement.
 - 18. The wireless receiver of claim 11, comprising a second FEC decoder, the first and second FEC decoders configured in a pooling arrangement.
- 15 19. In a wireless communication system, at least one of a base station and a subscriber station comprising:
 - a local transmitter having a physical layer processor comprising: a source signal including data;
- an FEC (Forward Error Correction) coder to receive the source 20 signal and produce an enhanced source signal including data coded with error correction information;

5

10

15

20

a demultiplexer coupled to receive the enhanced source signal from the FEC coder;

a plurality of modem processors, each of which is coupled to a unique output of the demultiplexer to process respective portions of the enhanced source signal in independent channels;

a summer coupled to receive outputs of the modem processors to produce an aggregate signal, the aggregate signal being an summation of the enhanced signal processed in independent channels; and

a transmitter to transmit the aggregate signal over a carrier frequency; and

a local receiver having a physical layer processor comprising:

a receiver that receives a wireless signal from a remote transmitter, the wireless signal being formed at the remote transmitter by a summation of portions of a coded signal that were processed in independent channels but were wirelessly transmitted as a single aggregate signal;

a plurality of demodulators coupled to receive an output of the wireless receiver; and

a multiplexer coupled to direct an output of the demodulators to an FEC (Forward Error Correction) decoder to recover a single unitary information signal.

- 20. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 19, wherein the wireless communication system comprises a spread-spectrum communication system.
- 25 21. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 19, wherein the wireless signal comprises a full-duplex signal.

- 22. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 19, wherein the full-duplex signal comprises a frequency-division duplex (FDD) signal.
- 23. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 19, wherein the wireless signal comprises a non-full duplex signal.
- 5 24. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 23, wherein the non-full-duplex signal comprises a time-division duplex (TDD) signal.
 - 25. The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 23, wherein the non-full-duplex signal comprises a half-duplex signal.
- The at least one of a base station and a subscriber station of claim 23, wherein the non-full-duplex signal comprises a simplex signal.
 - 27. A physical layer signal processor for use in transmitting a wireless signal, the signal processor comprising:
 - a Forward Error Correction (FEC) encoder, connected to receive a source signal, and to apply an error correction code;

a demultiplexer in communication with the FEC encoder, the demultiplexer outputting two or more demultiplexed encoded signals;

a plurality of modem processors, each receiving a respective one of the plurality of the demultiplexed encoded signals, the modem processors each modulating a respective one of the demultiplexer outputs applied thereto to produce a respective one of a plurality of transmission code modulated signals, the signal processor further characterized by:

a summer that is connected to receive the plurality of transmission code modulated signals to thereby produce an aggregate signal; and

15

20

a transmitter connected to receive the aggregate signal output by the adder, for producing an aggregate transmitted signal.

- 28. The processor of claim 27 provided in a base station of a wireless communication system.
- 5 29. The processor of claim 28, wherein the wireless communication system comprises a spread-spectrum communication system.
 - 30. The processor of claim 27 provided in a subscriber station of a wireless communication system.
- The processor of claim 30, wherein the wireless communication system comprises a spread-spectrum communication system.
 - 32. The processor of claim 27, wherein the FEC encoder operates according to an iterative systematic nested code.
 - 33. The processor of claim 27, wherein the FEC encoder operates according to a turbo product code.
- 15 34. The processor of claim 27, wherein the FEC encoder encodes according to a convolutional turbo code.
 - 35. A method for transmitting a high data rate signal over a wireless radio channel comprising the steps of:
- enhancing the high data rate signal with the Forward Error Correction (FEC) code;

distributing the enhanced high data rate signal over a plurality of demultiplexed signals;

encoding each of the plurality of demultiplexed signals with a spreadspectrum transmission code;

5 characterized by the additional steps of:

summing the plurality of spread-spectrum transmission encoded signals to produce an aggregate signal; and modulating the aggregate signal, to produce a transmitted signal.

- 36. The method of claim 35 in which the transmitted signal is provided to a base station of a wireless communication system.
 - 37. The method of claim 35 in which the transmitted signal is provided to a subscriber station of a wireless communication system.
 - 38. The method of claim 35, wherein the FEC decoder operates according to an iterative systematic nested code.
- 15 39. The method of claim 35, wherein the FEC decoder operates according to a turbo product code.
 - 40. The method of claim 35, wherein the FEC decoder operates according to a convolutional turbo code.